

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, TP, US

SUBJ: RELATIONS WITH SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1467

SUMMARY. TROVOADA RETURNED TO SAO TOME SEPTEMBER 26 AND HOPEFULLY WILL TAKE UP WITH MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES QUESTIONS DISCUSSED REFTEL. REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO U.S. GRADUATE STUDENT FOR SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN STP SUGGESTS THERE MAY BE FACTION WITHIN GSTP SEEKING LIMIT EXTERNAL INFLUENCES AND THUS PERHAPS OPPOSED TO U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. PLAN SEND EMBOFF TO SAO TOME OCTOBER 10 TO EXPLORE SITUATION FIRSTHAND AND, IF NO REPLY YET RECEIVED FROM TROVOADA, TO SEEK ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING VISIT TO NIGERIA (LAGOS 9517), GSTP PRIMIN/FONMIN TROVOADA RETURNED TO SAO TOME SEPTEMBER 26 AFTER OVERNIGHT STAY IN LIBREVILLE. TROVOADA MADE NO ATTEMPT CONTACT EMBASSY DURING BRIEF STOPOVER HERE, BUT SENT BACK FIRST-PERSON NOTE FROM SAO TOME EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO USG FOR HELP OF "SECURITY SERVICES" AND OTHER COURTESIES DURING WEEK IN NEW YORK.

2. TROVOADA PRESUMABLY WILL NOW TAKE UP WITH MINISTERIAL

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COLLEAGUES QUESTIONS RAISED DURING OUR LAST MEETING

REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. AID PROGRAMS FOR STP. WE REMINDED GSTP LIBREVILLE REP DOS SANTOS SEPTEMBER 29 THAT WE ARE STILL AWAITING REPLIES TO THESE QUERIES, BUT HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT SUBJECT. DOS SANTOS DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT HE NOW HAS REGULAR RADIO CONTACT WITH GSTP AND RECEIVES MAIL VIA TWICE-WEEKLY AIR GABON FLIGHTS SO CHANNEL IS AVAILABLE FOR TROVOADA TO ANSWER.

3. EXPERIENCE OF AMERICAN GRADUATE STUDENT SEEKING CONDUCT SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN STP SUGGESTS USG PROGRAMS MAY BE SUBJECT SOME INTERNAL DEBATE WITHIN GSTP, THOUGH EVIDENCE STILL INCONCLUSIVE. BARRY BIANCHI, HOLDER OF NIMH GRANT, WAS TURNED DOWN BY MINEDUCATION AND MININTERIOR, WHOM HE BELIEVES MAY BE PART OF FACTION SEEKING LIMIT EXTERNAL INFLUENCES IN STP. BIANCHI ADMITS THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED SPECIAL CASE BECAUSE HE HAD SPENT TIME ON SAO TOME UNDER PORTUGUESE REGIME, BUT NONETHELESS FEELS THAT DISAPPROVAL OF HIS PROJECT RESULTED LARGELY FROM FACTIONAL STRUGGLE IN GSTP WHICH MIGHT AFFECT USG PROPOSALS. (FULLER DETAILS OF BIANCHI EXPERIENCE AND OBSERVATIONS BY AIRGRAM.)

4. IN LIGHT THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, PLUS QUICKENING PACE OF OTHER NATIONS' ACTIVITIES (ALGERIAN AGRONOMISTS ARRIVED SAO TOME SEPTEMBER 26; FRENCH AMBASSADOR EXPECTED PRESENT CREDENTIALS IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS), BELIEVE TIME NOW RIPE TO SEND EMBOFF ON FIRST VISIT TO SAO TOME TO EXPLORE SITUATION FIRSTHAND. CURRENTLY PLAN HAVE DCM DEJARNETTE GO TO SAO TOME OCTOBER 10, AT WHICH TIME HE CAN SEEK REPLIES TO REFTEL QUESTIONS IF NONE YET RECEIVED OR ELSE FOLLOW UP ON THESE AND RELATED MATTERS WITH TROVOADA AND OTHERS IT GSTP. STEIGMAN

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